

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7354

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO UR

SUBJ: KOSYGIN'S TWO DAYS IN BELGRADE

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN DIVIDED HIS TIME IN BELGRADE AMONG CEREMONIAL RECEPTIONS, OFFICIAL TALKS AND SIGHTSEEING. HIS TOAST AT LUNCHEON FIRST DAY HERE CONTAINED PHRASES WHICH MAY HAVE IRRITATED YUGOSLAVS. PRESS COVERAGE INDICATES TALKS ARE CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. DETAILS OF TRAVELS IN YUGOSLAVIA, INCLUDING INTERESTING MACEDONIA VISIT FOLLOW SEPTEL. END SUMMARY

2. SOVIET PREMIER KOSYGIN DEPARTED BELGRADE SEPTEMBER 26 FOR HIS TOUR OF YUGOSLAVIA AND TALKS LATER IN WEEK WITH PRESIDENT TITO AT BRIONI. KOSYGIN SPENT ONLY PART OF MONDAY AFTERNOON AND TUESDAY MORNING IN OFFICIAL TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV TEAM HEADED BY HIS HOST, PREMIER DZEMAL BIJEDIC.

3. TOASTS AT LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 24 CONTAINED MUCH EXPECTED RHETORIC AND POSITIVE EVALUATION OF SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. KOSYGIN'S TOAST IN ADDITION CONTAINED SEVERAL PHRASES WHICH

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COULD HAVE BEEN IRRITATING FOR HIS HOSTS, E.G., AT ONE POINT

HE TALKED OF "VERY IDENTITY OF SOCIAL ORDERS IN BOTH COUNTRIES", WHICH IS FORMULATION RUNNING COUNTER TO YUGOSLAV CONCEPTS OF SEPARATE ROADS TO SOCIALISM, SELF-MANAGEMENT SOCIALISM AND SOCIALIST MARKET ECONOMY. LATER IN THE TOAST KOSYGIN NOTED, "WE ARE DEEPLY SATISFIED BECAUSE YUGOSLAVIA, JUST AS SOVIET UNION, ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE TO MONOLITHIC CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE WORLD.." KOSYGIN REFERRED TO BREZHNEV'S TALKS WITH TITO IN 1971 AND 1972 AND AT ANOTHER POINT QUOTED BREZHNEV AS SAYING THAT AS IN CASE OF A MAN, "IT IS DIFFICULT FOR A COUNTRY WHEN IT HAS NO ALLIES, NO PEOPLE WHO THINK THE SAME WAY, NO STATES WHICH ARE FRIENDS".

4. IN HIS OPENING TOAST BIJEDIC HAD REPEATED STANDARD YUGOSLAV PHARASEOLOGY ABOUT "PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL RESPECT, CONSISTENT RECOGNITION OF SPECIFIC TRAITS OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS" -- PRINCIPLES HE SAID WERE CORE OF BELGRADE DECLARATION OF 1955 AND JOINT STATEMENT OF 1971 AND 1972. BIJEDIC ALMOST APPEARED TO BE LECTURING SOVIET GUEST ON SELF-MANAGEMENT AS "BASIS FOR YUGOSLAV SOCIAL-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM".

5. ACCORDING PRESS, KOSYGIN POSITIVELY ASSESSED YUGOSLAVIA'S AND TITO'S NONALIGNED POLICIES DURING SEPTEMBER 25 TALKS. MOST ATTENTION IN TALKS IS BEING DEVOTED, AS EXPECTED, TO ECONOMIC MATTERS.

6. COMMENT: ON THE SURFACE, KOSYGIN VISIT HAS GOTTEN OFF TO GOOD START. WE DOUBT, HOWEVER, WHETHER SOLUTIONS WILL BE FOUND SOON TO THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS OF SLOW UTILIZATION OF SOVIET CREDITS BY YUGOSLAV AUTONOMOUS ENTERPRISES.
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